

## Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

CINCPACREP GUAM/TTPI MI

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 207691

EXDIS MILITARY ADDEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

CINCPACREP FOR CIVIL COORDINATOR

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 207691 ACTION GENEVA INFO USUN  
01 SEPT

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 207691

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, PFOR, PORG, VS

SUBJECT: VIETNAMESE REPATRIATES ON GUAM

FOR THE AMBASSADOR FROM INGERSOLL

1. AFTER FOUR MONTHS OF ATTEMPTING THROUGH THE GOOD  
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OFFICES OF THE UNHCR TO RETURN TO SOUTH VIETNAM THOSE

VIETNAMESE REFUGEES ON GUAM DESIRING TO GO BACK, OUR EFFORTS HAVE PROVED FUTILE. IT IS THE CONSENSUS OF ALL CONCERNED AGENCIES IN WASHINGTON THAT FOR POLITICAL AND HUMANITARIAN REASONS THE TIME HAS COME TO CONSIDER ALTERNATIVES TO CONTINUED RELIANCE ON THE UNHCR TO ACCOMPLISH THIS TASK.

2. THE UNHCR, SADRUDDIN AGA KHAN, PLANS TO LEAVE FOR BANGKOK SEPTEMBER 3 AND EFFORTS ARE UNDERWAY TO ARRANGE FOR HIS RECEPTION IN HANOI AND SAIGON. SHOULD THE DRV/PRG AUTHORITIES FINALLY AGREE TO RECEIVE THE HIGH COMMISSIONER, HE SHOULD RAISE WITH THEM THE MATTER OF THE 1700 PLUS REFUGEES ON GUAM AND IN THE UNITED STATES WHO HAVE EXPRESSED A DESIRE TO RETURN HOME AND WHO HAVE EXECUTED THE REQUIRED DOCUMENTS. PRIOR TO THE HIGH COMMISSIONER'S DEPARTURE FOR SOUTHEAST ASIA, WE CONSIDER IT EXTREMELY IMPORTANT THAT HE BE AWARE OF OUR STRONG CONCERNS OVER

THE LACK OF PROGRESS IN THE NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE RETURN OF THESE PEOPLE. ACCORDINGLY, YOU SHOULD RAISE THE MATTER WITH THE UNHCR AS SOON AS POSSIBLE ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES:

(1) THE USG IS DEEPLY CONCERNED WITH THE PROBLEM OF THE REFUGEES FROM INDOCHINA WHO WISH TO RETURN TO VIETNAM. DESPITE THE UNHCR PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT IN MAY THAT THE PRG WAS WILLING TO COOPERATE ON REPATRIATION, MONTHS HAVE PASSED WITHOUT ANY INDICATION THAT THE PRG WILL IN FACT AGREE TO THEIR RETURN. IT IS INHUMANE TO HOLD THESE PEOPLE IN LIMBO INDEFINITELY. MANY REFUGEES ARE DESPERATE AND HAVE INITIATED SCHEMES TO EFFECT THEIR OWN RETURN TO VIETNAM. THE MOUNTING FRUSTRATION OF THE REFUGEES IS REACHING SERIOUS PROPORTIONS AND THERE IS SERIOUS CONCERN FOR THEIR WELFARE.

(2) THE USG VIEWS THE TRAVEL OF THE UNHCR TO SOUTHEAST ASIA AS FINAL OPPORTUNITY TO IMPRESS ON HANOI AND SAIGON AUTHORITIES THE IMPORTANCE HE ATTACHES TO PROGRESS IN RETURNING THESE PEOPLE TO THEIR HOMES. WE WOULD HOPE THE UNHCR WOULD EXPRESS THESE VIEWS IN THE STRONGEST

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TERMS AND POINT OUT THAT WORLD OPINION DOES NOT UNDERSTAND THE RELUCTANCE OF THE AUTHORITIES IN VIETNAM. VIETNAMESE AUTHORITIES HAVE HAD AMPLE TIME TO EXAMINE EACH APPLICATION FOR REPATRIATION AND THE UNHCR IS READY TO ARRANGE FOR TRANSPORTATION PROMPTLY. THE UNHCR SHOULD BE URGED TO SECURE A DEFINITIVE REPLY TO HIS DEMARCHE.

(3) YOU SHOULD INDICATE TO THE UNHCR THAT THE USG

CANNOT ALLOW THE SITUATION TO CONTINUE INDEFINITELY.

(4) YOU SHOULD ALSO PROPOSE TO UNHCR THAT HE ESTABLISH A CAMP IN A NEUTRAL NATION AND HOLD THE REPATRIATES THERE UNTIL ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE MADE WITH SAIGON. THE PROBLEM IS AN INTERNATIONAL ONE; REFUGEES IN COUNTRIES OTHER THAN THE UNITED STATES HAVE APPLIED THROUGH THE UNHCR FOR REPATRIATION TO VIETNAM. WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE UNHCR FOR REPATRIATE MAINTENANCE AT THAT CAMP.

3. WOULD APPRECIATE WORD FROM SADRUDDIN AGA KHAN SOONEST ON RESULTS OF DEMARCHE IN SAIGON. WE ARE TRANSMITTING THE IDENTICAL MESSAGE TO EMBASSY BANGKOK SHOULD YOUR APPROACH TO THE UNHCR NOT BE POSSIBLE BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE. INGERSOLL UNQUOTE ROBINSON

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